



Friday, November 14, 2003

2nd ACR renovating two soccer fields in Muthana



This soccer field in Muhallah is being renovated and should be ready for use in late December.

By 2nd Lt. Michael Murphy
Information Operations Officer
A Company, 2nd Battalion, 37th Armored Regiment

BAGHDAD, Iraq – Most soccer fields in Baghdad consist of little more than a dirt field strewn with garbage and bent goal posts. A Company, 2nd Battalion, 37th Armored Regiment, 1st Armored Division, with help from the Al Muthana Neighborhood Advisory Council (NAC) and the new Free Army Sports Club, are now bringing two high quality soccer fields to the area.

The first such field was constructed in Muhallah, nestled among a series of high-rise apartment buildings. The field is in close proximity to several schools, including a preschool, a primary (elementary) school and a high school (Al Basma Preschool, Asdiqa Al-Qaed Primary School and Tag Al Marrick High School). This field is also just across the field from a prominent mosque.

The field was formerly quite destitute. A member of the Al Muthana NAC, Nbras Amer, found a contractor to repair the field and bring it to a high standard for \$5,200.

Now, with the work nearly completed, the field has seen the following improvements: a new fence; garbage removed; new soil hauled in; goals repaired; four new lights installed to illuminate the field after dark, an irrigation system; and newly planted grass.

The other new field is being constructed just south of the Assyrian Democratic Movement compound, just south of the intersection of Algiers and Al Robaie Streets.

The Free Army Sports Club has proposed the project as their main stadium, and the Muthana NAC has agreed. The Free Army Sports Club is the official sports club of the New Iraqi Army.

In exchange for receiving exclusive use of the field for league use for 25 percent of open field time, the club has agreed to help finance the field, supervise its construction, and guard and maintain it after its completion.

This field includes all the amenities of the one in Muhallah, with the following additions: locker room/changing area; guard shack; bleacher seating; stadium lighting; and space for future additions

This field is to be the crown jewel of new sports facilities in the Al Muthana area. Construction is expected to be completed in mid-November. After that, the field will require at least 30 days for the new grass to grow.

These fields represent part of a larger effort to increase the recreational opportunities for children and adults alike in the Al Muthana and Al Sumar areas. In the coming weeks and months, even more projects like this may still be undertaken to help improve the quality of life for Iraqis in these areas.



The second field is partly for the Free Army Sports Club, the official sports club of the New Iraqi Army.

Oddly Enough

News

Japan Puts Off Sending Troops to Iraq

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) - Japan put off a decision Thursday on sending troops to Iraq, a day after the deadliest attack on coalition forces since the war, and South Korea capped its contribution at 3,000 soldiers - new setbacks to U.S. hopes for easing the pressure on its forces. U.S. troops pounded suspected guerrilla targets in the capital for a second straight night under a new "get-tough" campaign against the insurgency. And the top American administrator, L. Paul Bremer, headed back to Baghdad after two days of White House talks with orders that Iraqis should take more responsibility for governing.

Ten Commandments Judge Thrown Off Bench

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (AP) - Alabama Chief Justice Roy Moore, who became a hero to religious conservatives for refusing to remove his granite Ten Commandments monument from the state courthouse, was thrown off the bench Thursday by a judicial ethics panel for having "placed himself above the law." "I have absolutely no regrets. I have done what I was sworn to do," Moore declared afterward, drawing applause from dozens of supporters at the courthouse. "It's about whether or not you can acknowledge God as a source of our law and our liberty. That's all I've done."

ATHENS (Reuters) - Greece's television regulator has fined a private channel 100,000 euros (70,000 pounds) for corruption of public morals over scenes in a late-night TV series that included a kiss between two men, the regulator has said. The drama series "Close Your Eyes", which deals with the turbulent lives of a group of 20-somethings in Athens, is screened after 10.30 p.m. and has regularly topped the television ratings. In a written ruling on Thursday, television and radio regulator ESR criticised the sexually charged language and the portrayal of a relationship between gay men in the show, which it said "could damage young people by making them too familiar with vulgarity". "Whatever the reasoning behind the decision, we will not accept it," said a legal representative for Mega Channel television station which broadcasts the show, adding it would take the case to the country's highest administrative court. In classical Greek art and literature, romantic love between men was a common theme, with decorative pottery commonly featuring homoerotic scenes. However, in modern-day Greece, public discussions on homosexuality are rare but the fine has sparked furious public debate.

Safety Tip

CLEARING M-16, M4 AND M9

- ✓ FOLLOW PROPER CLEARING PROCEDURES
- ✓ REMOVE MAGAZINE
- ✓ POINT WEAPON INTO CLEARING BARREL
- ✓ **VISUALLY INSPECT CHAMBER**

COMPLACENCY CAN KILL

Chaplain's thought for the day

Come To Me

When he brings out his own sheep, he goes before them; and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice.

—John 10:4

After a hijacked plane slammed into the Pentagon on September 11, 2001, many people inside the building were trapped by a cloud of thick, blinding smoke. Police officer Isaac Hoopi ran into the blackness, searching for survivors, and heard people calling for help. He began shouting back, over and over: "Head toward my voice! Head toward my voice!"

Six people, who had lost all sense of direction in a smoke-filled hallway, heard the officer's shouts and followed. Hoopi's voice led them out of the building to safety.

"Head toward My voice!" That's also God's invitation to each of us when we are in danger or when we have lost our way.

Are we listening for God's voice during our times of prayer. When we're in difficult circumstances, are we walking toward Him instead of groping in the dark?

Whatever our need for guidance or protection, God calls us to heed His voice and follow Him.

You don't need to know where you're going if you're following the Lord.

This Day in History

November 14th, 1862 President Lincoln approves of General Ambrose Burnside's plan to capture the Confederate capital at Richmond, Virginia. This was an ill-fated move, as it led to the disastrous Battle of Fredericksburg on December 13, in which the Army of the Potomac was dealt one of its worst defeats. Lincoln consented to the plan just five days after Burnside assumed command of the army. The general had replaced George McClellan, who led the force for more than a year. McClellan's tenure was marked by sharp disagreements with the administration and sluggishness in the field. Burnside's plan called for the Army of the Potomac to move 40 miles to Fredericksburg on the Rappahannock River. From there, his troops would advance south to the Confederate capital of Richmond. Lincoln appreciated the fact that Burnside's plan protected Washington, D.C. Although Lincoln approved of the plan he warned Burnside that action needed to be taken quickly. By early December, Burnside had the army in motion. When the Yankees reached Fredericksburg, however, they experienced delays in crossing the Rappahannock, which allowed General Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia to move its forces into place above the city. On December 13, Burnside made a series of doomed attacks and the Army of the Potomac suffered one of the most costly and demoralizing defeats of the war.

Source: HistoryChannel.com